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FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1914.

A TIP.

A word to the Senators who are wasting time and breath speaking against the repeal of tolls exemption.

The mere emphasis there is placed on the cost of the Panama Canal, the otterly the magnificent figures are told over the tongue, the more the attention of the American people is centred upon the fact that they paid millions to build the canal, the more they will be disinclined to let a rich shipping monopoly use it for nothing.

MURDER OF PRIVATE PARKS.

More and more evident it is becoming every day that if there is any knowledge of civilized warfare in Mexico, any sense of responsibility to international regulations, it is not to be found in the camp of the Federalists, with all his reputation for cruelty and barbarity, has never been guilty of so crude a piece of work as the torture and murder of a foreign soldier in uniform.

While Secretary Garrison has taken prompt action to ascertain the true facts regarding the death near Vera Cruz of Private Parks and to demand reparation should the stories of his murder prove true, the case will add to the difficulties of the administration. A few others like it will make futile all his efforts toward a peaceful solution of the Mexican problem. That may be one reason it happened.

VITAL STATISTICS LAW.

It is needless to call to the attention of physicians the importance of making reports of births under the vital statistics law. The value of that law and its need are better known to them than to any other class of citizens.

It is surprising, therefore, to note that many of them in the State have failed to report a single birth during the year. According to the State Board of Health, there were 523 of these physicians. There should be none.

Such dereliction can be explained only on the ground of thoughtlessness or carelessness, for we hesitate to put it down to indifference to the well-being of the State and of the future citizens whom they have helped usher into the world. We believe a little more prudence by the officers of the Board of Health and a continuation of their campaign will show better results in 1915.

LEGITIMATE EXPENSE.

Plenty of journalistic Pharisees are raising supercilious eyebrows over revelations before the Interstate Commerce Commission as to money spent by the New Haven road to influence public sentiment, to find out the plans of the road's financial enemies and generally to keep the property favorably in the limelight.

There is and can be no objection to any railroad or corporation making legitimate expenditures in the line of publicity. Under the head of "legitimate" does not, of course, come the bribing of legislatures or the buying of the editorial favoritism of newspapers, outside of these avenues there are many fields in which roads may legitimately spend money for publicity.

For example, they have no recourse in combating demagogic unless they can buy space in newspapers. The politician gets his space free. It is simple fairness that the railroad should have a "comeback," even at advertising rates.

SILLY.

We agree with Senator Stone of Missouri, that the efforts of Senator Clapp, of Rhode Island, to ascertain if President Wilson is grounding Villa for the Mexican rebellion can be characterized as "silly." They are even more than "silly." The use of that word reflects only upon the intelligence of the Senator from Rhode Island. But his preposterous utterances reflect upon the dignity and intelligence of the President.

During the recent war scare we have rather less than usual of the patriotic and interior efforts to bait the President. Upon such former occasions there has been a plethora of attempts to embiggen and "up" and "spoil" the man in the White House by Congressmen who nursed private or political grudges or who were cast out by scowls and disaffected neighbors.

The general decrease in this variety of potboiling gratifyingly involves that the level of patriotism in Congress is gradually rising.

If the people at home will let the men in Washington know that, in times of national peril, the president's voice is to be respected, we shall see the exhibitions of pettiness narrow quickly to a vanishing point.

Virginia's option laws are good and well enforced.

Of the twenty-two states which have tried prohibition, fifteen have abandoned it.

Consumption of liquor has increased in the prohibition States.

Prohibition laws are good and well enforced.

Most of the States which have em-

ployed state-wide prohibition show a distressed financial condition. State debts and taxes have been increased.

It is impossible to force Anglo-Saxons to regard the sale of liquor as a crime. It is merely a matter of regulation.

The Anglo-Saxon races from the earliest times have insisted upon local government. Attempt to regulate persons and habits by state authority is opposed by Anglo-Saxons, who insist that all acts for

more than one thousand years.

This is the gist of the arguments set forth by the speakers last night. This and much more is what Roy Clegg, for four years Commissioner of Internal Revenue, gave as his experience and knowledge and as his views based on that experience and knowledge.

The speeches and the platform, therefore, deal with facts, conditions and conclusions drawn therefrom. They must be met as such. If they are not facts, if the conditions set forth are not the true conditions, if the conclusions are drawn from false premises or illegally drawn from correct premises, these things may be pointed out. Virginia is to settle a problem of method of dealing with an evil, and it can be settled on the basis of reason and sound sense, and not by appeals, on either side to passion and prejudice.

Virginia has started right. There is no reason why the end should not be reached and the problem settled at the polls in the same spirit.

WILL HE BE A CANDIDATE?

His luminous return from the jungles of Brazil has set in motion the tongues of the politicians and has raised the same queries and caused the same speculations that greeted his return from Africa four years ago.

Will he be candidate for the presidency in the next election? That was the question discussed all over the country then, and that is the question which is causing mild speculation now and will cause even more serious thought after his arrival in this country. Now, as then, the party leaders are the ones most deeply interested in the conundrum in the early stages. Later the entire country will become involved in the discussion. Now, as then, opinion is divided, though something has been learned by experience.

Nothing in the future is certain. The passage of time brings many changes, especially in politics. The wiser and shrewder the political observer, the less inclined he is to prophecy. However, even in politics there are signs, and even political aspirants are not able always to conceal their motives and intentions even by the use of language. Their well-known mental and moral characteristics often betray them. In the case of men widely known and as closely studied as the returning explorer there is basis for reaching conclusions. Events may prove them false. They may even make them false. But if there is any thing certain in politics it is that, whether there be another Armandson or not, there will be another battle with the perennial candidate in 1916.

As a prelude from which to draw conclusions, his own statements are valueless. The mistake of taking his declarations into consideration and giving them place in the equation was made four years ago. His repeated renunciations were accepted at their face value by many and at so much on the dollar by others.

Those who considered them not at all, but based their opinions upon broad observation of the trend of events and upon their interpretation of his character, were those who guessed right. He was ambitious to be President; he loved a fight; he had a score to square with Mr. Taft. Answer: He will be a candidate for President.

All but the last minority in the convention is present to-day. In substitution thereto we have the presence of those who regard him as the only man to reunite the discordant Republican party and the opportunity, dearly beloved by him, to appeal to the spirit of magnanimity and impulsive action so remorselessly pressed by the quiet, powerful man in the White House. To lead a fight against his opponents, it is almost certain, he will find an irresistible temptation.

"Do you know?" asks the Frederickburg Journal, "that Fredericksburg has made no improvement in its streets since the last two years?" We do not, but are glad to hear it. Why not repeat the trick the next two years?

The Bristol Herald-Courier thinks that "it is serious to be doubtful if the administration will consider the possibility of attaining any part of any of its policies to meet the objections of Colonel Roosevelt." This is reply to Congressman Stump's enthusiastic approval of the contradictory interview given by the Colonel on emerging from the Senate. And of Congressman Stump himself, this: "Probably no one doubts that Mr. Stump is to agree with Mr. Roosevelt who fails to agree with Mr. Roosevelt." Mr. Stump, who also declares that we need a man of Roosevelt's type at the head of our nation, it will be remembered, has had the opportunity to help Mr. Roosevelt to that position, and instead fought strongly for Taft.

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